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## Congress Weighs Cut in Intelligence Budget Amid Dispute Over Bill

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 — A dispute between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Senate over the annual bill for intelligence programs comes as Congress is weighing sharp reductions in President Reagan's proposed budget for the C.I.A. and other agencies.

The bill authorizes the intelligence agencies to establish and extend programs in 1987 and sets limits on the subsequent appropriation of funds in separate legislation. Spending figures for intelligence are kept secret, but members of Congress said the House's version of the authorization bill would reduce overall spending on intelligence after inflation was taken into account.

Representative Lee H. Hamilton, chairman of House Select Committee on Intelligence, said recently that the House version of the bill included cuts that "will impair, but not cripple intelligence by eliminating or slowing many collection and processing programs and by denying personnel increases to handle new intelligence programs."

The Senate version would increase the spending ceiling, the members said. But several senators said that William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, was not helping his agency with his sharp objections to provisions in the Senate version that are sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina.

"If he doesn't stop beating up on us, he can find someone else to carry his water for him on the budget," one Senator said.

The Helms provisions call on the agency to prepare reports on a variety of topics and to reassess their conclu-

sions on a list of more than two dozen intelligence issues, according to Congressional officials. The officials said the amendments also seek to enhance the role of the Defense Intelligence Agency, a Pentagon unit.

One Senate aide played down the importance of the Helms amendments, saying the reports could be easily prepared and did not represent any threat to the C.I.A.'s fundamental powers or place among this country's intelligence agencies.

But Mr. Casey said in an interview Thursday evening that he had objected to the amendments because they amounted to an attempt by Congress at "micromanagement" of his agency.

The authorization bill is worked out in private through months of hearings and negotiations between the intelligence agencies and the Congressional committees that oversee them. The bill includes directions to the C.I.A. and other agencies and is typically not amended on the floor. Most of its provisions are classified and can be examined only by members of Congress and their staffs.

Differences between the House and Senate versions are expected to be resolved soon by a conference committee.

### Senator Sees Budget Peril

In a speech on the Senate floor, Senator Dave Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican who heads the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, underscored the budget pressures facing the intelligence agencies this year.

He said spending on intelligence fell last year, when inflation is taken into account, for the first time in eight

years. For seven consecutive years previously, he said, the budget for intelligence has risen after inflation, a growth that Congressional aides said has more than doubled the amount spent for intelligence.

Senator Durenberger said last year's budget "forced the cancellation of a number of important activities and the deferral and stretchout of many others."

Senator Durenberger noted that the intelligence budget was being pinched by reductions in military spending supported by the Congress. Much of the money for the intelligence agencies is hidden in the military programs bill.

An example of the connection between the two budgets emerged on the House floor last week when Representative Hamilton amended the House intelligence measure, lowering its totals to conform with a cut in the military bill from \$292 billion to \$286 billion.

### Genesis of Dispute

Senator Helms is not a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Senate aides said the wording of his amendments was negotiated between his staff and the staff of the Senate panel. One Senate aide said the aides to the intelligence committee took the teeth out of the original draft of the amendments. This included dropping a proposal that would have banned the C.I.A. from conducting major paramilitary operations like support of the rebels in Afghanistan or Nicaragua.

Senate aides said the amendments were then presented to the C.I.A. Mr. Casey initially approved them in a telephone conversation with Mr. Helms but changed his mind when he saw how they were worded. Mr. Casey next took the highly unusual step of arranging for the White House to have another Senator, Paul Laxalt, Republican of Nevada, block action on the bill.

In effect, this placed Mr. Casey at odds with Mr. Durenberger, who was trying to steer the bill through Congress.